



## JJAC Opposes Juvenile Death Penalty

Juvenile Justice  
Advisory Committee

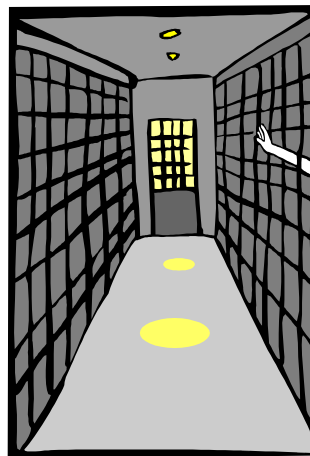
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Kentucky's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) has voted unanimously to oppose the juvenile death penalty in hearings before a legislative committee.

"Executing children, regardless of their crime, is uncivilized and inhumane, and accomplishes nothing in terms of reducing juvenile crime and delinquency," said JJAC Chairman Hasan Davis.

The JJAC is the state's federally mandated advisory group on juvenile justice issues. Created in 1996, it has played a pivotal role in reforming Kentucky's juvenile justice system and creating an effective, equitable system to prevent juvenile crime and delinquency.

The JJAC is a 33-member board with representatives of law enforcement, youth and family advocates, social ser-



vice agencies, volunteers, legislators, former offenders and the courts from across Kentucky. It makes recommendations on policy and legislation to the Department of Juvenile

Justice, and allocates federal grants to communities, schools and local nonprofit organizations for delinquency prevention and alternatives to detention.

"We support policies and legislation that help our youth and our communities grow strong and successful," Davis said. "The juvenile death penalty fails that test. We encourage individuals, faith organizations, youth and family advocates to join us in urging the General Assembly to eliminate the juvenile death penalty."

### Juvenile Death Penalty Facts

Kentucky permits the execution of people as young as 16 who have been convicted of a capital crime.

Of the 40 people on death row in Kentucky, one was sentenced for crimes committed as a juvenile.

Since it reinstated the death penalty in 1975, Kentucky has executed two people, neither of them for a juvenile crime.

Kentucky is one of 38 states and the federal government that authorize the death penalty for capital crimes.

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# Recent Grants

## Title II - Alternatives to Detention

One of the primary goals of Kentucky's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is to help communities create and expand options for youth who need supervision but whose offenses are not serious enough to warrant placing them in a residential facility.

These alternatives to detention allow communities to help troubled youths with counseling, education, foster care, recreation and other programs before their problems or behavior require court action.

The JJAC allocates federal funding under Title II for locally-based alternatives to detention. In 2001, the JJAC approved funding for 11 programs across Kentucky to create, expand and improve alternatives to secure detention for juveniles. All the funding is awarded on a *per diem* or per client basis for services provided in a particular location.

### **Family Nurturing Center. Boone, Kenton, Campbell Counties**

Home visiting component for current Bridges nurturing parent and adolescent parent program



### **Ed Necco and Associates, Inc. Three multi-county programs**

- Home detention and tracking
- Foster care
- Community service programs

### **Bellewood Presbyterian Home for Children, Bowling Green**

- Expanding in-home services to juvenile offenders

### **Positive Link Center, Inc. Lexington**

- After-care program for at-risk juveniles and juvenile offenders

### **Ramey Estep Homes, Inc.**

- In-home crisis intervention

### **Methodist Home of Kentucky, Inc. Versailles.**

- Emergency shelter for juveniles

### **Restoration and Options for People Excluded, Inc. (R.O.P.E.) Hardin County**

- Parent accountability program

### **Metro Group Homes, Inc. Lexington**

- Emergency shelter for juveniles

# Davis Honored For Service to Juvenile Justice

The Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency awarded its 2001 Juvenile Justice Award for outstanding service in juvenile justice to JJAC Chairman Hasan Davis.

A graduate of Berea College and the University of Kentucky College of Law, Davis is a community activist, youth advocate and motivational speaker. He has been an artist in residence in schools inside and outside Kentucky and has worked with Kentucky's arts and humanities councils and the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities.

Doing business as Youth Empowerment Solutions, Davis teaches juvenile justice agencies and other youth-focused organizations throughout the country to use the arts in their treatment of children in need.

Davis also chairs the JJAC's Subcommittee on Equity and Justice for All Youth. SEJAY oversees Kentucky's effort to reduce the disproportionate minority representation in its juvenile justice system.

"The only people that we cannot reach are those whom we refuse to touch," Davis says.



**JJAC Chair Hasan Davis**

## *JJAC: Seeking Change For Our Youth*



The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is Kentucky's federally-mandated State Advisory Group.

Created in 1996, the JJAC has played a pivotal role in reforming Kentucky's juvenile justice system and creating an effective, equitable system to prevent juvenile crime and delinquency.

The JJAC works to ensure that Kentucky's jails, courts, detention and child protective services meet or exceed federal laws and standards for dealing with juveniles. In addition to allocating federal grant funds to local communities, the JJAC studies juvenile justice issues such as disproportionate minority confinement and mental health, and makes recommendations on legislation and executive policy to the General Assembly and the Department of Juvenile Justice.

Kentucky's governor appoints the JJAC's 33-member board with representatives of law enforcement, youth and family advocates, social service agencies, volunteers, legislators, former offenders and the courts from across Kentucky.



***Coming Soon!***

## ***New JJAC Web Site***

JJAC members and staff are hard at work designing and building our completely new and different web site. This site will offer everything you always wanted to know about the JJAC, including grants, programs, success stories, member profiles and more. The site will also offer links to other State Advisory Groups, federal agencies and other sources and references.

***Watch This Space For Launch Date and Address***

## **Next JJAC Meeting February 12**

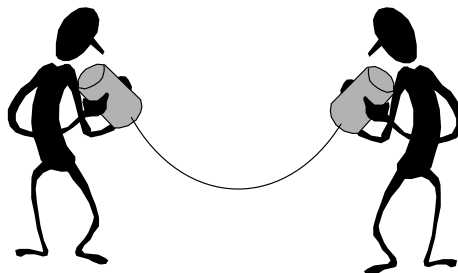
Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and interested visitors are welcome. The JJAC meets the second Tuesday of every other month from noon to 3 p.m., usually in Frankfort. The next JJAC meeting will be held at noon on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, in Frankfort at a location to be determined. If you wish to receive a meeting notice, please see contact information below.



**Questions?**

**Comments?**

**Suggestions?**



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# Juvenile Death Penalty Facts

*(Continued from page 1)*

Kentucky is one of 18 states that permit executions for people as young as 16. Five states have chosen 17 as the minimum age at the time of the crime for execution, and the other 16 death penalty states have set 18 as the minimum age at the time of the crime for execution. *(Death Penalty Information Center)*

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that executing people 15 years old and younger is unconstitutional. Since then, three states have set minimum ages for execution above 16: Florida, age 17; Montana, age 18, and New York, "older than 18." *(Death Penalty Information Center)*

The United States is one of only seven countries in the world that have executed people for crimes committed as juveniles since 1990, according to Amnesty International (AI). The others are Congo, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The country which carried out the greatest number of known executions of child offenders was the United States: 17 since 1990.

Amnesty International's website states: "International human rights treaties prohibit anyone under 18 years old at the time of the crime being sentenced to death. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights



and the Convention on the Rights of the Child all have provisions to this effect. More than 110 countries whose laws still provide for the death penalty for at least some offences have laws specifically excluding the execution of child offenders or may be presumed to exclude such executions by being parties to one or another of the above treaties."

The first juvenile recorded executed in this country was Thomas Granger of Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts in 1642. In the 359 years since, approximately 361 people have been executed in this country for juvenile crimes. That number is 1.8 percent of the 20,000 people confirmed executed in America since 1608. *(Death Penalty Information Center)*

Seventeen of these executions for juvenile crimes have been imposed since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976. These seventeen recent executions of juvenile offenders make up 2.6% of the total of about 650 executions. *(Death Penalty Information Center)*

Kentucky's juvenile offender on death row is one of 73 people on death row in the United States for crimes committed as juveniles. These 73 offenders constitute about two percent of the total death row population of about 3,700. All were age 16 or 17 at the time of their crimes; their current ages range from 18 to 42. They are incarcerated in 15 states and have been on death row from a few months to more than 22 years.

## Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee

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## ***Save This Date***

**Disproportionate Minority Confinement**

**Pre-Conference**

**May 14-15, 2002**

**Opening the 2002 DJJ Prevention Conference**

**Hurstbourne Hotel and Conference Center**

**Louisville, KY**

**Watch This Space for More Information**